October 13th, 2022

Dear Katrina Lovelady: Wellness Policy Coordinator,

The Explore Academy – Las Cruces Wellness Policy was assessed as part of your Administrative Review. Based on my review, the policy **does meet** the requirements of the Public Education Department (PED). In many ways, your district’s policy is **exemplary** and indicates a commitment to creating an environment in which students will gain life-long habits for healthy minds and bodies.

The [Healthy, Hunger Free Kids Act of 2010](https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-04-25/pdf/2016-09412.pdf) and State of New Mexico Administrative Code [NMAC 6.12.6](https://www.srca.nm.gov/parts/title06/06.012.0006.html) require your school districts School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) to meet at least twice a year to review “measurable goals for nutrition promotion and education, physical activity, and other school based activities that promote student wellness.”

Now that your policy is strong, you may wish to consider a process of continuous evaluation and revision; ensuring this is a living document that reflects your districts pledge for healthier students. As part of this review process, using portions of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [School Health Profile](https://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/data/profiles/index.htm) may help to guide your work. Please see the rubric provided for any areas of need that could be addressed in the future to strengthen your policy.

Documentation of efforts to review and update the policy will be the focus of your next administrative review. The revised Wellness Policy is to be made available to the public once a year. You may review the revised [2021 Wellness Policy and Implementation Guide](https://webnew.ped.state.nm.us/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/SHSB_2021Wellness-Policy-Formation-and-Implementation-Guide-.pdf) at any time.

Please, reach out to me with your Wellness Policy needs and/or questions.

Sincerely,

Ashley Phelps, PhD | Health Education Coordinator

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